

TRANSCRIPT OF ROADLESS RULE
ANILCA SUBSISTENCE PUBLIC HEARING

TENAKEE SPRINGS, ALASKA
11/5/2019

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Tenakee Springs, Alaska - 11/5/2019)

3 (On record)

4 MR. SCHMID: This is Dave Schmid. I'm the
5 Regional Forester for the Forest Service here in
6 Alaska. We are in Tenakee with the public meeting here
7 around the proposed Roadless Rule and the Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement.

9 As part of that effort here we are also
10 conducting a subsistence hearing, an 810 subsistence
11 hearing. So when you come forward if you could just
12 state your name and anything you would like to share
13 relative to how this rulemaking effort or the preferred
14 alternative or what alternative may affect your
15 subsistence lifestyle and your ability to harvest
16 subsistence resources.

17 So if you could again just state your name and
18 you can take a seat or you can stand. You're welcome
19 to share.

20 MR. ALLRED: My name is Kevin Allred. I live
21 in Tenakee Spring, Alaska with my wife. We derive a
22 large portion of our food through subsistence
23 activities. We harvest deer, salmon and shrimp and
24 halibut and other things from the forest.

25 There are many areas in this area that have

1 already been timber harvest and eroded. These have all
2 made a detrimental impact on the salmon fisheries and
3 deer habitat. I'm concerned that even more timber
4 harvest will further degrade our salmon habitat and
5 deer.

6 In other parts of Southeast Alaska we've had
7 over many years an enhancement effort to try to build
8 the salmon fishery. This is in part because of the
9 detrimental timber harvest to our salmon streams. A
10 nearby stream here, Basket Bay, used to have a salmon
11 run of what I recall as about 70,000 salmon, sockeye
12 salmon, that would run up into Kook Lake. That is down
13 to only a couple thousand after the timber harvest has
14 occurred. This is one example of the detrimental
15 impact of timber harvesting and roading.

16 The area to the south of Tenakee Springs has a
17 lot of inlets and it is known for its good salmon runs.
18 We don't want these to be affected any worse than they
19 already have. That's my testimony. Thank you.

20 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Kevin.

21 MR. WILSON: Can I say what he said?

22 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, you can ditto that as well,
23 but please state your name and anything you'd like to
24 share.

25 MR. WILSON: My name is Stanley Wilson. I live

1 in Tenakee Springs. I'm concerned about the
2 subsistence resources being affected by the Roadless
3 Rule. I understand that there could be mining involved
4 with this and that's a definite detriment to salmon and
5 any other fish. I'd just like to see it protected
6 because my life depends on it because I only get a
7 pittance every month from the government on Social
8 Security.

9 We also are losing the ferry, which means we
10 can't -- that is our grocery supply and this is not
11 happening now at least until March and then it's going
12 to be shut off again next year. So it's very important
13 that we are able to harvest these resources.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Anyone else. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. WISENBAUGH: Yeah. Are we on?

18 MR. SCHMID: We are on. Your name.

19 MR. WISENBAUGH: My name is John Wisenbaugh.
20 I'm a 46-year resident of Tenakee Springs. I came up
21 here to work in the timber industry. I worked at
22 Corner Bay, logging over there and helped build most of
23 the road. I've seen over the course of the last
24 40-some years the fish runs in Corner Creek have
25 diminished significantly. They're nowhere near what

1 they used to be.

2 As hard as we worked trying to implement new
3 regulations and put in culverts and stuff so that they
4 didn't impact the fisheries and the fish migration, the
5 shifting in settlement. I've seen now on what road is
6 still available for hunting that a lot of those
7 culverts block the migration of fingerlings up the
8 streams.

9 I don't want to see any more road building in
10 areas. There's still timber available on the Indian
11 River Road and the Corner Bay Road that ought to be
12 substantial enough for this area for a long, long time.

13

14 So I'm advocating for the no action alternative
15 in the Roadless Rule and would like to see the
16 continued prohibitions on further road building and
17 inventory roadless areas. Thank you.

18 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.
19 Are you the longest resident here in Tenakee at 46
20 years?

21 MR. WISENBAUGH: No, not quite. Close.

22 MR. SCHMID: That's pretty special.

23 MR. WISENBAUGH: The reason I stayed here was
24 the old-timers that were here and now all of a sudden I
25 am one.

1 (Laughter)

2 MR. SCHMID: Thank you for your comment.

3 MS. BARNES: My name is Beret Barnes. I've
4 lived in Tenakee since 1981. I'm here with my husband.
5 We supplement our diet with a lot of protein from the
6 inlet, whether it's deer hunting, salmon fishing,
7 halibut, shrimp, whatever it is, sea cucumbers. I
8 really would not like to see any more road building or
9 logging in this inlet. One, because of the substantial
10 salmon runs that are here that are declining because of
11 previous logging in decades past.

12 There are also a couple families here that make
13 their living commercial fishing in and out of the inlet
14 and they would be impacted also because many years ago
15 many families could work, you know, just one fishery
16 and make a living at it. As we've seen over the past
17 decades in Southeast Alaska most anyone that tries to
18 make a living commercial fishing has to diversify and
19 fish two or three or four different fisheries and
20 investing in all that gear.

21 I support no action Alternative 1 for the
22 Tongass Roadless. Also here in Tenakee Springs we're
23 looking at the landless natives and if that action
24 passes, we're looking at over 23,000 acres being
25 cherry-picked here in the inlet and basically they can

1 do anything they want.

2 The gentleman that's heading that group out of
3 Hoonah, Al Hill, said they want tourism and they want
4 logging and that is a very scary proposition for us
5 that live in the inlet that have protected it for years
6 to keep it as pristine as it is and healthy and
7 ecologically perfect the way we consider it.

8 Again, I support no action, number 1, on the
9 Roadless Rule. Thank you.

10 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Hi.

11 MS. STERN: My name is Wendy Stern. I'm a
12 full-time resident of Tenakee Springs. I'm pretty new
13 here. I've only been here 18 years.

14 (Laughter)

15 MS. STERN: But even in that 18-year period
16 I've seen the fishery change because of other pressures
17 on salmon and halibut out there in the big water. I
18 think people that don't live here would be stunned at
19 how much subsistence use affects the people that live
20 here. It's my protein source. It affects this
21 community in a huge way to be able to have healthy
22 fisheries and healthy deer populations. It's very
23 important.

24 I support Alternative 1 no action because with
25 all the other pressures on our inlet right now,

1 environmentally and with other legislative actions,
2 we're looking at a bleak future for our protein
3 harvests and I think we're all a little worried. So I
4 support Alternative 1 no action.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. SCHMID: Thank you so much. Any others.
7 Please.

8 MR. MEYER: Hello. My name is Mark Meyer.
9 I've lived here since '92. I commercial fish for
10 salmon. I power trawl. I've been doing that since
11 2011. So I'd like to go on record as saying I support
12 Alternative 1 because anything that affects salmon
13 affects me and anything that affects water quality
14 affects salmon.

15 Since I've been commercial fishing I've met --
16 you know, it's like a new language, it's a new tribe,
17 it's a new family, then there's all the people that
18 support the commercial fishing industry. I've gotten
19 to know lots of them too. Everyone you talk to in
20 power trawling, I can't speak for the other fisheries,
21 it's different than it used to be. Every year is a
22 different year and it's like it's not even close to
23 what it was going to be last year. So you just don't
24 know what is going to come next it seems like.

25 I'm not sure where I was going with that, but

1 just that, you know, it's really important to a lot of
2 people in Alaska. That's how they try to make a living
3 at it and it's not an easy way to make a living.

4 One of my observations as commercial fishing I
5 spend a lot of time on the water and just how much
6 warmer the water has gotten, especially in the inlet
7 here. I've seen something I've never seen before.
8 While I was waiting to sell there was a couple crab
9 boats in front of me, so he was buying crab and salmon.
10 The water was so warm that they'd been pumping on the
11 crab that they couldn't handle them. They had to cool
12 the water off before they could pump the water out and
13 chill the crab before they wanted to handle them
14 because they would all die. So they were dumping like
15 1,000 pounds of ice into the hold.

16 It's like that was just like that's kind of
17 scary, you know. So just because the oceans -- the
18 salmon live in the ocean some of the time and the rest
19 of the time it's the streams. That's the rest of their
20 life. Just a little difference can be the difference
21 for those fish.

22 I've talked to people that have seen small
23 streams that don't have salmon in them because they
24 don't have water in them. There's one right around the
25 corner down here. I've watched skinny bears walking up

1 and down the bank looking for fish. The fish weren't
2 there anymore. They weren't able to get in those
3 streams. It's different than it used to be.

4 So that needs to be taken into account too.
5 Thank you for your time. Thanks for coming and hearing
6 our story.

7 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Anyone else. While
8 you're coming up. Yeah, we saw unprecedented drought
9 conditions here last year throughout Alaska, especially
10 in Southeast, Southcentral. It's hot. Yes, sir.

11 MR. HURA: Hi. My name is Larry Hura. I live
12 in Haines, Alaska, which is north of here. My main
13 reason for -- I used to live here in Tenakee. My wife
14 was a school teacher many years ago. We've had a house
15 for 40 years here now. I come down for deer hunting
16 mostly because we don't have deer around Haines.

17 I support Alternative 1 for the simple fact
18 that I've seen what the destruction of old growth
19 timber does to the deer populations down here. They
20 have no winter range. There's nothing to keep them
21 alive in the winter.

22 So I would support Alternative 1 and hopefully
23 our administration does too.

24 MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

25 MS. SPENO: My name is Lisa Speno and just

1 wanted to indicate my support of no action mainly
2 because subsistence is important for us. It's
3 important for my family. My extended family, my
4 brother-in-law is a commercial fisherman. It's hugely
5 important for him. We do eat the bulk of our protein
6 also from the inlet here. Deering hunting, fishing,
7 shrimping. It's super important to us, a big part of
8 our family's lifestyle and important to our livelihood.

9 I just want to thank you for coming out and for
10 giving us the opportunity to make our comments.

11 Thanks.

12 MR. SCHMID: Thank you so much. Anyone else.
13 Hello.

14 MS. MOODY: Hi. My name is Megan Moody. I
15 just wanted to express how important it is to me that
16 we support Option 1 no action. I also get most of my
17 meat, protein through subsistence. My family deer hunts
18 for ourselves as well as proxy hunting for multiple
19 other people in this community. We fish and crab and
20 shrimp.

21 Yeah, I was recently thinking about one bay and
22 just thinking of all the different uses throughout the
23 year, specifically Seal Bay where I was last weekend.
24 In a year we can see the -- you know, and this is just
25 my family. I know that there's deer hunting because

1 we've been deer hunting. We got stuck there a year
2 ago.

3 And a couple months later my husband's boat is
4 in there -- he's a guide, part of a guiding outfit, and
5 then a month later there's a small mini cruise ship
6 doing kayak tours and then a month later people are
7 trout fishing, we're trout fishing and looking for
8 trout and dollies. Then salmon fishing in there a
9 month later and then back to deer hunting. So the
10 place is really, really used and used in all these
11 different ways.

12 With the other options I think that's just
13 prioritizing one industry over all of these different
14 ways that the Tongass is being used. Thank you.

15 MR. SCHMID: Excellent. Thank you.

16 MR. MOODY: My name is Justin Moody. I support
17 Alternative 1. My family is 100 percent subsistence.
18 We get all of our meat, fish, all that kind of stuff.
19 We buy very little food. We grow what we can. In
20 addition to hunting and fishing there's seaweed and
21 gathering and all that kind of stuff, berries. Yeah,
22 our life is pretty dependent on a healthy ecosystem and
23 healthy forest.

24 In addition to that I make 100 percent of my
25 living as a hunting guide in Southeast Alaska in the

1 Tongass, Units 1 through 4. I'm a contracting
2 registered guide, a 100-ton captain also. So my
3 livelihood is 100 percent tied into a healthy
4 ecosystem. Thank you.

5 MR. SCHMID: Excellent. Thank you. How are we
6 doing? Anyone else?

7 MS. MOODY: I can tell you that in five minutes
8 there will probably be a lot more people that will show
9 up because on the schedule it said that you guys are
10 going to do a subsistence hearing from noon to 2:00.
11 So if you'd wait just five minutes I bet more people
12 will show up.

13 MR. SCHMID: Oh, yeah. We'll reopen if
14 somebody comes in.

15 MS. MOODY: Okay.

16 MS. SCHMID: But I'm going to have the master
17 of the mic turn it off for now. I'm afraid to touch
18 anything. I didn't want to blow it up.

19 (Off record)

20 (END OF RECORDING)

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